

I.O. - 6903

No. 6903
Date Oct. 1, 1926

A CANTON GENERAL ON CANTON

No Real Bolshevism: Borodin Merely an Adviser: The Red Labours for Peace

"There is absolutely no truth in the allegations that Canton is Bolshevik and is governed by Comrade Borodin and his Communists or that Gen. Chiang Kai-shek (Commander-in-Chief of the Cantonese army) is 'Red,'" said Gen. Wu Te-cheng, commander of the 1st Canton Army and Commissioner of Public Safety in Canton, when interviewed by a representative of the "North-China Daily News."

Comrade Borodin was simply a political adviser to the Canton Administration, remarked Gen. Wu, and had no say in the affairs of the province at all. He might have some personal influence over some members of the Government but that did not mean to say that he dictated to the Government. "I am a member of the Government," said Gen. Wu, "but I am never governed by Borodin or any other foreigner. Borodin's position as political adviser gives him the right to make suggestions but it gives him no power in the administration. It is absolutely untrue to say that he is dictating to the government. Some individual may listen to his advice, but that is their own business. It is true that Communist propaganda is being spread in the south, but that also is carried on individual lines and not by the government."

No Real Bolshevism

"Real Bolshevism," continued the General, "does not exist in Canton. There is peace and order in the province such as has never been experienced since the Revolution. Business is being carried on normally. If Bolshevism existed, all properties would be nationalized, as well as women, and all buildings and stores, etc., such as Sincere's and the Sun Co., would be seized by the maddened masses. The province would be in a state of tumult."

Referring to Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, the Commissioner said that here was a true, brave, honest and patriotic man, who really had the interests of the Chinese people at heart. There was absolutely no truth in the allegations that he was a Bolshevik. His men were really well-trained, many had studied in the Whampoa Military Academy, and they were good and well-behaved fighters. Their actions did not arouse the antagonism of the people. Unlike other troops, they did not resort to squeeze and other illegal taxation. They only fought when forced to and then they generally were victorious. They wanted peace, they wished to maintain peace.

That Weary Old Yoke

Canton, the base of the Revolution and the anti-imperialist stronghold, desired to achieve a national revolution and to release the Chinese people from the yoke of the foreigners. In order to establish an ideal government, the Chinese must do away with militarism and imperialism, but this required united efforts. The first thing was to educate the people and let them have real peace. Canton desired first to put her house in order and set an example for others to follow and later, if necessary, she could send assistance to other provinces which needed her help. All obstacles to progress would be overcome in due time.

In connexion with the break with Hongkong, Gen. Wu expressed the hope that the matter would be completely and satisfactory settled. Delegates had gone from Hongkong to Canton with a view to bringing about a settlement. It was not the aim of Canton to sever economic relations with Hongkong and the breach would never had occurred had it not been for the Shamian incident last June when more than 160 Chinese citizens were killed by the British and French and no redress had been made.

After this readers will scarcely wish for more of General Wu's opinions.